

**Statement**

Statement-wise details of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided upto 31.07.1996

S. No.	Circle/State	Total No. of inhabited villages	VPTs as on 30.07.1996
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29460	18878
2.	Assam	22224	8676
3.	Bihar	79208	12507
4.	Gujarat including Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu.	18125	13028
5.	Haryana	7018	6708
6.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	4103
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	6453	1506
8.	Karnataka	27024	13789
9.	Kerala	1530	1530
10.	Madhya Pradesh	71526	28073
11.	Maharashtra including Goa	40430	23441
12.	North-East including Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Meghalaya, Tripura & Manipur.	14197	2530
13.	Orissa	46989	12973
14.	Punjab	13252	8514
15.	Rajasthan	37889	12864
16.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	20196	14469
17.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	75462	17864
18.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	37106	10112
19.	West Bengal including Sikkim	38337	8210
20.	A&N Island	292	93
21.	MTNL, Delhi	191	191
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>603906</b>	<b>220059</b>

**Promotion of Amateur Radio Activity in India**

3095. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:  
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA  
JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the urgent need to promote Amateur Radio Activity in India on a very large scale;

(b) whether its MPLAD Scheme has helped in its promotion;

(c) whether Government are taking any steps to promote Amateur Radio; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Need for promoting Amateur activity in India is well recognised.

(b) to (d) Under the MPLAD (Member of Parliament Local Area Development) Scheme, a project "HAM Amateur Radio Station/Club in every High School" for implementing in Government and Government aided Schools/Colleges was formulated by Department of Electronics in consultation with Department of Programme Implementation with a view to promoting Amateur Radio.

**Drug abusers in the country**

3096. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of drug abusers in the country;

(b) the steps taken by Government for prevention of drug abusers in schools and colleges;

(c) whether Government are considering introducing capital punishment for drug traffickers; and

(d) the number of drug traffickers sentenced so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) No National survey has been conducted to assess the number of drug abusers in the country. However, the drug addicts registered during the last 3 years for treatment in the Drug De-addiction Centres/Counselling Centres financially assisted by the Ministry of Welfare under the Scheme for Prohibition and Drug Abuse Prevention are as under:—

1993-94	— 2,90,628
1994-95	— 3,12,118
1995-96	— 2,81,266